

GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH
1938

Incorporating the Annual Report
of the
SANITARY INSPECTOR

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RURAL DISTRICT

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GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health (part time):

G. D. SHANN, M.R.C.S. England,
L.R.C.P. London, D.P.H. Birmingham.

Sanitary Inspector (whole time) and **Meat and Food Inspector:**

B. J. DODSWORTH, Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
(Resigned 31st March, 1938)

G. W. YEARSLEY, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
(Commenced Appointment, 1st June, 1938)

Assistant: S. SEAMANS.

Sanitary and Building Surveyor (whole time):

R. C. RICHES, Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Surveyor's and Inspector's Office: Barham, near Ipswich.

Telephone: Claydon 319.

**RURAL DISTRICT OF GIPPING.
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1938.**

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Gipping Rural District Council.**

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Gipping Rural District of East Suffolk.

This report is drawn up as outlined by the Ministry of Health, in Circular 1728, dated 25th October, 1938.

Section A.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.**

Area (in acres): 79,898.

Registrar General's Estimate of Population, mid-1938:
18,140.

Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1938) according to Rate Books: 5,578.

Rateable Value: £58,202.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £241.

The chief industries are agriculture and milk production, together with the trades related to these pursuits, e.g., maltings, flour mills, and "chemical fertiliser" factories. These, and the steel-piling and cement works absorb most of the labour in the District. Unemployment is mainly casual and seasonal, and is partially absorbed on road improvements by the County Council.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year.

		Male	Female	Total
Live Births	{ Legitimate	133	113	246
	{ Illegitimate	10	8	18
Total Live Births	... ..			264
Stillbirths	... ..	5	6	11
Total Live and Stillbirths	... ..			275
Deaths	... ..	127	76	203
Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated population	... ..			14.5
Birth Rate per 1000, England and Wales	... ..			15.1
Stillbirths, Rate per 1000 total births	... ..			40.0
Death Rate, per 1000 of estimated population: Crude	... ..		
Rate (unadjusted)	... ..			11.2
Registrar General's "Areal Comparability Factor"	... ..		
[A.C.F.]	... ..			0.83
Adjusted Death Rate [= "A.C.F." × crude "D.R."]	... ..			9.29
Death Rate, England and Wales, 1938	... ..			11.6
Deaths from Puerperal Causes:				
No. 29, Puerperal Sepsis	... ..			1
No. 30, Other Puerperal Causes	... ..			1
Total	... ..			2
Rate per 100 total births	... ..			7
Deaths of Infants under one year of age [M. 8, F. 8]				
Legitimate 15; Illegitimate 1; Total 16.				
Death Rate of Infants:				
All Infants per 1000 live births ("Infantile Mortality Rate")	... ..			60.6
All Infants per 1000 corresponding Rate for England and Wales	... ..			53.0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	... ..			61.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	... ..			55.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) [M. 16, F. 15]	... ..			31
„ Measles (all ages)	... ..			0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..			0
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	... ..			1
„ Tuberculosis [M. 4, F. 3]	... ..			7
„ Influenza	... ..			2
„ Violence [M. 5, F. 0]	... ..			5

There has been no unusual mortality or excessive sickness during the year.

From the above figures it will be seen that the Birth Rate and Death Rate are just a little under the corresponding Rates for the Country as a whole; but the "Infantile Mortality Rate" slightly higher, which is quite unusual in this District. The numbers are too small however to shew any definite trend.

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(i.) Full particulars of the **Public Health Officers** of the Authority have been given at the beginning of this report.

(ii.) **Developments and Changes in the Services provided.**

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** East Suffolk County Laboratory, no change.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**

General and Accident: Motor ambulances from East Suffolk Hospital, and St. John's Ambulance Brigade, both at Ipswich.

Infectious Disease: Stowmarket Isolation Hospital
(motor ambulance).
Ipswich Isolation Hospital
(motor ambulance).

I have found these services completely adequate, and have had no difficulty in obtaining prompt removal of infectious cases occurring in the District; but, if necessary, the East Suffolk County Council Ambulance is also available for collecting infectious cases.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.** Every Parish in the District is covered by the "District Nursing Associations." (Not administered by the Rural District Council.)

(d) **Hospitals.** There is no public or infectious disease hospital in the District.

Stowmarket Isolation Hospital is administered by a "Joint Board" of which Gipping Rural District Council have a 42% interest. At present this Isolation Hospital can only deal with cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria; but an architect is now engaged in making plans for its improvement and expansion.

Section C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Section D.—Housing,

and

Section E.—Inspection of Food.

These three sections are dealt with in detail by the Sanitary Inspector, whose Report is incorporated at the end of my Report.

It may be remarked that many of the figures of inspections are less than last year. This is accounted for by the fact that our former Sanitary Inspector obtained another appointment in February and left the District in March; after which Mr. Riches and I attended only to urgent sanitary matters and Mr. Riches undertook the "Meat and Food Inspection." I should like to congratulate Mr. Yearsley on the large amount of methodical work he has accomplished since he took over the appointment on 1st June, and to thank him for his Report, and help to me in the second half of the year.

Under "Section C."

4. Schools.

I have made several visits to Schools in connection with infectious diseases and water supplies. The Elementary, Secondary and Area Schools are, of course, for Public Health purposes, under the control of the Chief School Medical Officer, who is also County Medical Officer of Health. All exclusions from School are either recommended or confirmed by him, and I believe no "Closure" of a School in this District was found necessary during the year.

The County Council Health Authorities also had samples of water taken from every School in our District during the year, and analysed at the County Laboratory. A copy of the analyst's reports was forwarded for my information. In three cases only the report was of a definitely unsatisfactory nature. I visited these supplies. One was remedied. The other two can only be dealt with temporarily by boiling; but both Schools are situated in parishes which are due to have a piped supply in the future, though the Council's scheme for this supply has been delayed by unforeseen circumstances.

Section F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1938.

Disease.				Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	32	31	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	1	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	12	5	12
Other Diseases generally notifiable						
Erysipelas	...	...	...	7	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	3	2	—

Analysis under Age Groups.

Age Groups	ScarletFever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas
under 1—3	1	—	—	—
4—	2	—	—	—
5—	15	—	4	1
10—	8	1	—	—
15—	2	—	—	—
20—	1	—	3	—
35—	1	—	1	—
45 upwards	2	—	4	6

The cases of Scarlet Fever were spasmodic, and with the exception of 4 children in one family, scattered over the District. The Pneumonia cases mainly in winter coinciding with influenza incidence. No case of the Typhoid group was notified in 1938.

I received reports of cases of Measles, German Measles, and Mumps from the School authorities, but these infections are not notifiable locally. Artificial immunization against Diphtheria has not been considered practicable in the Rural District, and only one case clinically and bacteriologically positive has been recorded.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
15	...	...	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	...	...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
45	...	...	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
55	...	...	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 upwards	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	...	...	3	5	2	2	4	2	0	1

There were no “non-notified” Tuberculosis deaths recorded. I have no knowledge of any cases in the District which have not been notified, or of which there has been “refusal to notify.”

No action has been required under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons employed in the milk trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to compulsory removal to hospital).

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and all the Officers of the Rural District Council, who have given me assistance in the past year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

GERALD D. SHANN,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE FACTORIES ACT.

“ The Factories Act, 1937 ” came into force on 1st July, 1938. A new Register of all Factories in the District is being compiled, and when required Certificates in respect of “ Safety from Fire ” and Water Supplies will be issued.

Extract from portion of Home Office Form 572,
for the year 1938:—

1. **Inspections.**

Factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	8
Factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	1
Other Premises	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	11
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	Nil

2. **Defects Found.**

Want of cleanliness 1; Remedied 1.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT for 1938.

Section C.

1. (i.) Water.

The Stonham-Crowfield scheme was completed during the year. Extensions of approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of water mains have been carried out to cover parts of the parishes of Henley and Barham in the Ashbocking scheme, practically $\frac{5}{8}$ of a mile in Haughley and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in Mickfield. Pumping stations at Haughley, Great Finborough and Stowupland have been electrified and are now automatically controlled. At Coddendam Green a new bore has been sunk to supply water for a number of residents in that area.

Various plans and information relative to the Ashfield-Debenham scheme have been supplied to the Ministry but up to the end of the year official sanction to carry out the major portion of the scheme was not received. The bore for the scheme has been sunk and gives a yield of 6,000 gallons per hour.

Further to the Ministry enquiries held during the year 1937 boring operations are in progress with a view to supplying nine parishes in the western region of the District.

Samples of water for bacteriological and chemical examination have been taken from the Stowupland supply direct from the bore and from a house tap on the line of main and satisfactory reports were received.

Within recent years every endeavour has been made to provide piped supplies and the results are very gratifying but there is still urgent need for piped supplies in many parts of this extensive rural district. Much effort should be put forward and money should be found to put an end to the hardship suffered by numerous members of the rural community who have to carry water distances which approach miles rather than yards and to whom water from stagnant pools is a commodity of no mean importance.

(ii.) Drainage and Sewerage.

A number of new drainage systems have been provided at private houses in the District.

There is a sewerage system in the parish of Haughley and arrangement has been made privately to deal with the drainage from a new estate of 100 houses in the parish of Stowupland, but during the year no works of sewerage or extensions of sewers have been carried out. Several populous townships

badly need main drainage schemes and the position will be a good deal more acute when projected piped water supplies are provided. In particular comment has been made for many years regarding the unsatisfactory conditions existing in Needham Market where the road surface water drains have been utilized to receive foul water and which discharge directly into several watercourses and the River Gipping. The Council have now engaged Consulting Engineers to make a preliminary report and it is to be hoped that a scheme will be carried out without undue delay, and that such scheme will only be the forerunner to others in the District.

2. Rivers and Streams.

Apart from the pollution of a number of watercourses due to the absence of sewerage schemes the most important matter under this head seems to be the pollution of the River Gipping. As stated in last year's Annual Report the County Sanitary Officer has made a detailed and exhaustive report on the numerous sources of pollution and the character of the various effluents being discharged into the river. The report indicates that the bulk of the pollution arises from the drainage outfalls at factories in the Stowmarket Urban District and the latter Authority have given the matter serious consideration.

3. (i.) Closet Accommodation.

Very little change has been made during the year relative to conversion to the water carriage system. Pail closets are the usual type of accommodation in the District except for new private houses and larger properties where water closets have been installed.

(ii.) Public Cleansing.

Contractors are employed to collect dry refuse in the parishes of Barham, Bramford, Combs, Claydon, Great Blakenham, Great Finborough, Haughley, Debenham, Needham Market, Stowupland and Wetherden. The latter parish was included for collection during the year. Collection is made fortnightly except in the parish of Great Finborough where a monthly service is given. Nightsoil is dealt with in the parishes of Bramford, Haughley and Needham Market.

Ninety-seven sanitary dustbins were provided after service of informal notices.

(iii.) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Tabular Statement of Inspections.

Nature of Inspection	Number	Notices Served	
		Informal	Statutory
Houses (First visit) ...	195	35	—
Houses (Re-visits) ...	83	—	43
Overcrowding ...	41	—	—
Dangerous Buildings ...	1	1	—
Caravans, Sheds, etc. ...	16	1	—
Infectious Diseases ...	3	—	—
Water Supplies ...	205	8	—
Dairies and Cowsheds ...	42	4	—
Slaughterhouses ...	545	—	—
Factories ...	5	—	—
Schools ...	1	—	—
Food Shops ...	6	3	—
Surveys of Villages ...	—	—	—
(a) Sewerage ...	1	—	—
(b) Refuse Collection ...	5	—	—
Drains ...	12	1	—
Construction of Drains ...	8	3	—
Closet Accommodation ...	3	3	—
Watercourses ...	18	1	—
Disinfestations ...	6	2	—
Disinfestations (Re-visits) ...	6	—	—
Piggeries ...	2	—	—
Refuse Disposal Sites ...	6	—	—
Dustbins ...	30	104	—
Miscellaneous ...	106	—	—
Totals ...	1346	166	43

The Statutory Notices included in the above table were Notices of Time and Place under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and resulted in 22 Demolition Orders being made and 3 undertakings being received not to use houses for human habitation. The remaining Notices are still outstanding.

(iv.) Shops and Offices.

Two informal notices were served in respect of inadequate ventilation of shops and one requiring the provision of sanitary accommodation.

(v.) **Camping Sites.**

No holiday camps were known to be established in the District during the year.

(vi.) **Smoke Abatement.**

It has not been found necessary to take any action for the abatement of smoke nuisance in the area.

(vii.) **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in this District.

(viii.) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

The only action taken in this direction was in respect of two Council houses and one other house. Proprietary fumigants were used in each case and appear to have been successful in the former cases but further measures are still necessary in respect of the latter.

4. Schools.

Only one private school has been inspected by me since I commenced my duties in the District but several visits have been made in respect of water supplies and drainage.

Section D.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:

By the Council	...	...	...	...	...	66
By Private Owners	...	...	...	...	...	38

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	195
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	278
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932					86
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	129

(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	43
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	35
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices.					
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	10
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.					
A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:					
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:				
(a)	By Owners	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	Nil
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:					
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:				
(a)	By Owners	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	By Local Authorities in default of Owners	...	...	...	Nil
C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:					
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	22
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	11
D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:					
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil

(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
4.	Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV.). Overcrowding.						
(a)	(i.)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	...	...	...	...	33
	(ii.)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	33
	(iii.)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	257
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year:					
	(i.)	Dwellings	...	...	...	...	2
	(ii.)	Number of persons	...	...	...	...	21
(c)	(i.)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	18
	(ii.)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	133
(d)		Particulars of cases which have again become overcrowded after the "L.A." has taken steps to abate overcrowding	...	...	...	...	Nil

In further reference to Housing there are now 453 Council Houses in the District and in addition 86 houses which were originally a private estate have been taken over by the Council. There is need for more Council Houses to replace unfit houses and to abate overcrowding and every effort is being made by the Council to meet this need.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Inspection has been made of 42 Dairies and Cowsheds. Sampling for tubercle bacilli and in respect of Accredited milk and milk supplied to Schools is undertaken by the County Council. Copies of reports received have not indicated the presence of tubercle bacilli or other harmful bacteria.

There is still need for structural improvement to many of the dairy premises in this district and efforts are being made to obtain more suitable cowsheds and dairies. The Accredited Milk Scheme has been an inducement to a number of producers to attend to structural details but it is to be regretted that the majority, either through indifference or fear of initial outlay, do not make the effort to become Accredited producers.

Number of Registrations during the year:—

Cowkeepers, Wholesale and Retail Purveyors	...	3
Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors	...	3
Cowkeepers and Retail Purveyors	...	2

There are 31 Accredited producers and 1 producer of Tuberculin Tested milk.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

A number of inspections have been made of bakehouses, fried fish shops and other food premises. Action was taken in respect of one fried fish shop requiring considerable work to be carried out to make the premises suitable. There are 23 private slaughterhouses in the District and 545 visits have been made to them.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	... 215	1	2	213	1759
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	76
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	1	1	1	63
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis	4.18%	100%	50%	.46%	7.95%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	—	1	—	134
Percentage of the number inspected affected with ... tuberculosis	... 4.18%	—	50%	—	7.95%

4 tons 12 cwts. 3 qrs. 17 lbs. of unsound meat was surrendered voluntarily during the year and 1 ton 4 cwts. 5 qrs. 8 lbs. of this amount was found to be tubercular.

G. W. YEARSLEY, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.

